

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the case. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

Claims 1,7,9 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Wagoner.

Claims 2,4-5,11-15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wagoner in view of Upthegrove.

Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wagoner in view of Upthegrove and Tate.

Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wagoner in view of Main.

The claims have been amended in view of these references. The present invention transfers a driving force delivered to its striking end substantially uniformly to its socket mounting end. Claim 1 as amended recites the relationship of the cross-sectional size of the first and second socket driving members that structurally achieve the substantially uniformly deliver this force. Claim 1 recites, among other limitation, that:

"the receiving end having a third lateral cross-sectional area and the socket-mounting end having a fourth lateral cross-sectional area, wherein the fourth lateral cross-sectional area is greater than the third lateral cross-sectional area and **the lateral cross-sectional area of the second member expands from the third cross-sectional area to the fourth cross-sectional area;** and

a second coupling protrusion extending from the socket-mounting end, **the second coupling protrusion being substantially square in lateral cross-section."**

Applicants respectfully submit that these and the other recited features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite:

"... wherein said socket driving member includes a first section and a second section, said first section including said striking surface and said second section including said mounting surface and said socket engaging mechanism, said first and second sections being releasably couplable to one another; ...

wherein **the lateral cross-sectional area of said second section at said mounting surface is greater than the lateral cross-sectional area of said second section where the second section couples to the first section."**

Applicants respectfully submit that these and the other recited features of claim 9 are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite:

"... wherein the first socket driving member has a first lateral cross-sectional area at the striking surface end and a second lateral cross-sectional area at the mounting end, the **first and second lateral cross-sectional areas being substantially the same;**

wherein the first socket driving member is configured to be **longer in the longitudinal dimension** than the perpendicular lateral dimension;

wherein the first socket driving member has a **substantially uniform lateral cross-sectional area along its longitudinal length** to transfer a striking force from the striking surface end to the mounting end; and

wherein the **first socket coupling protrusion has a lateral cross-sectional shape that is substantially square."**

Applicants respectfully submit that these and the other recited features of claim 16 are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from the above discussed independent claims and further due to their individual limitations. Various dependent claims recite a continuous expansion of the second member or section, or a flared shape, etc. Other dependent claims recite first and second coupling protrusions that are square in lateral cross-section and differently sized. Other dependent claims recite a tapered depression in the first member. Yet other dependent claims recite that the first member or section is longer than the second and longer than it is wide. These features in their given combinations are not taught by the cited references. Applicants respectfully submit that they are also not suggested by the cited references.

In view of the foregoing Amendments and these Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance and early notification of same is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would help further the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the listed telephone number.

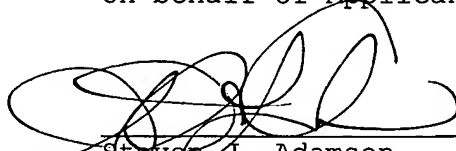
The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any fees (including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 for additional claims and any patent application processing fees

Attorney Docket No.:
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under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 including any fee for extension of time) associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0272. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted
on behalf of Applicant,

Date: 5-11-05



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